Malayalam T.V. programmes

*253. SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Malayalam television programmes from Trivandrum Doordarshan are proposed to be transmitted from Cochin and Calicut; and

(b) by when the microwave system for this purpose would be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The TV transmitters at Cochin and Calicut will be in a position to relay programmes of Doordarshan Kendra Trivandrum when the necessary linkage through microwave circuit is established. Doordarshan have for this purpose already placed an order on Department of Telecommunications for providing the required links.

Encouragement to fruit-juice based beverages

*254. SHRI KISHOR MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a policy to encourage the production of fruit-juice based beverages;

(b) what is the excise payable for 'Ready to Serve' beverages containing more than 10 per cent juice;

(c) whether it is a fact that some collectorate viz. Calcutta and States like U.P. and Gujarat are demanding 15 per cent excise; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Government desires to encourage fruit processing Industry.

(b) On fruit juices put up in unit containers, the rate of excise duty is 10 per cent. On fruit juice based beverages which contains only small quantities of fruit content the rate of excise duty is 15 per cent.

(c) and (d) In the past, there were varying practices in classification of fruit juice based beverages. The matter was examined by the Government and instructions have been issued to all Collectors of Central Excise so as to ensure Uniformity in the practice of assessment.

Loans to big industrialists written off

*255. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Plea to probe banks writing off 250 crores a year", published in the free Press Journal on June 13, 1987;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the Nationalised Banks write off Rs. 250 crores loan given to big industrialists every year; and

(c) if so, what are the details for the last three years, the names of the industrialists whose loans were written off, the amounts involved and the names of the concerned banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Government have seen the news item referred to in the question.

The public sector banks make provision every year out of their annual income for meeting their liability towards bad and doubtful debts to the satisfaction of their central statutory auditors at the time of finalisation of their annual accounts. The banks write off their advances only after exhausting all possible avenues of recovery. Reserve Bank of India have issued detailed guidelines to the banks indicating the factors to be kept to view before write offs are made.

Public sector banks are protected from disclosing information relating to individual constituents including the amounts of bad debts written off and the accounts in which they are written off, as also the total quantum of bad and doubtful debts for which provision has been made to the satisfaction of their statutory auditors, in terms of the statutes governing them, in accordance with the practices and usages customary among bankers and also in accordance with the forms of Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account prescribed in the Third Schedule of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, which all banks are required to follow strictly.

Credit against security of shares

*256. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Finance has recently received a letter from the FICCI President requesting that the commercial banks should provide more credit against the security of shares and debentures;

(b) if so, what are the views of Government on the subject; and

(c) the details of the current level of credit provided against the security of shares and debentures in comparison to the total credit provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The Government have recently received a letter from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry suggesting measures for the revival of stock market. One of the suggestions is that more bank credit should be made available against the security of shares and debentures. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has already issued instructions laying down guidelines for deployment of incremental deposits in loans given against the security of shares and debentures. The matter relating to the role of banks in the development of capital market is reviewed by RBI from time to time, in the light of emerging situation and further measures taken as may be necessary consistent with overall banking and monetary policy.

The Reserve Bank of India has reported that data relating to disbursement of credit by banks is being classified sectorwise and purposewise and no separate classification is made against securitywise disbursement and, as such, the percentage of credit provided by banks against shares and debentures in relation to gross credit is not available.

Freight equalisation in iron and steel

*257. SHRI NARAYAN KAR:
SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the considerations for backing out of the commitment given by Government to phase out freight equalisation in iron and steel; and

(b) whether the Eastern States which are adversely affected by the system were consulted before taking such a far-reaching decision, if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) In the light of the representations received from various State Governments, the Government have reviewed the earlier decision to phase out freight equalisation in respect of iron and steel and have decided to refer the matter to the National Development Council.

दूरदर्शन पर अंग्रेजी कार्यक्रम

*258. श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा :
श्री अजीत जोगी :

क्या **सूचना और प्रसारण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दूरदर्शन के "राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम" के अंतर्गत दिखाये